



Auckland Regional Public Health Service
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HEALTH PROFESSIONAL ADVICE

TYPHOID AND OTHER ENTERIC DISEASES ALERT – advice for people planning to travel to Samoa

Further to our advice of 30 January 2013, Auckland Regional Public Health Service has continued to receive higher than normal number of notified cases of typhoid fever (*Salmonella typhi*) and other complex enteric diseases (such as Shigellosis, Hepatitis A, and other Salmonellosis). Many of these people have been from the Samoan community and have had either:

- recent travel to Samoa,
- houseguests from Samoa, or
- consumption of fresh foods privately imported from Samoa.

These infectious notifiable diseases are spread via the faecal-oral route, often through contaminated water or foods. As the peak travel season approaches, we are expecting an increase in the number of notifications.

Clinicians within the Auckland region are asked to:

1. Promote appropriate hand and food hygiene in people that plan to travel to Samoa, have houseguests from Samoa, and with the Samoan population of Auckland in general. Information in both English and Samoan is available from our website at the link below.
2. Promote/provide pre-travel immunisation for Typhoid and Hepatitis A.
3. Be vigilant for these illnesses in people who have travelled to the Pacific or Asia in the last two months, or who have been in contact with others who have. Remember to notify ARPHS on 09 623 4600 if you suspect any of these conditions.

Thorough hand washing and drying is essential to help contain the spread of these conditions.

The Auckland Regional Public Health Service is responsible for investigating the source of the illness, contact tracing and exclusion of contacts from high risk settings, and taking steps to prevent further spread.

ENDS



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For more information

ARPHS Factsheets and Hand Hygiene information

- Hepatitis A, Listeria, Typhoid, Shigellosis, and VTEC: <http://www.arphs.govt.nz/health-information/communicable-disease/disease-fact-sheets>
- Hand hygiene: <http://www.arphs.govt.nz/health-information/communicable-disease/hand-hygiene>
- Samoan factsheets: <http://www.arphs.govt.nz/health-information/resources/non-english-resources>

MFAT SafeTravel website – useful advice for intending travellers:
<http://www.safetravel.govt.nz/beforeugo/health.shtml#typhoid>